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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Stephen A. Owenby, Senior Pastor, Stewartsville Baptist Church, Laurinburg, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Our sovereign Lord, we praise You for the freedom to enter Your heavenly throne room. We deserve not Your favor nor are we worthy of Your grace. All we can ask is, "Forgive us our transgressions, grant us salvation and guide us in the way of righteousness."

We have prayed, "God bless America." You have. "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God." May we not depend upon our own ingenuity, but in You alone.

I offer thanks for these men and women You have lifted up to serve their fellow countrymen. In James chapter 1, you tell us, "If any lack wisdom, let him ask." So we ask, Please grant to these servants the wisdom necessary to carry out Your will for our Nation. We ask this in Jesus' name and for His sake. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CAMPBELL of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND STEPHEN A. OWENBY

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an individual here with us who has dedicated his life to the service of others in his congregation and in his community. Pastor Steve Owenby is a selfless person who continually exemplifies servant leadership. I want to express my appreciation for his witness and the difference he makes in the lives of others each day, and thank him for being here with us to deliver this morning's prayer.

Steve has been married to his loving wife, Donna, for almost 21 years and has three wonderful children, Megan, Josh and Christy.

As a young adult, Steve began his life of service in the United States Air Force where he served 4 years honorably. He later felt called to the ministry and attended Liberty University, where he completed his Master of Theology.

He is currently the Senior Pastor of Stewartsville Baptist Church in Laurinburg, North Carolina. Stewartsville is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention and currently has about 800 members. It is a vibrant congregation that has a strong focus on missions, to the credit of Pastor Owenby and his family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in appreciation for Steve's many years of service as he leads his family, congregation, and community. I pray that others may follow his lead so that they too would understand the true meaning of life.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize 10 one-minute speeches on each side.

MORE GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE ECONOMY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share more good news with the American people about our economy.

Yesterday, the Commerce Department reported that consumer spending shot up by nine-tenths of a percent in January, which is the strongest gain in 6 months. In addition, Americans' personal incomes rose by seven-tenths of a percent, which is the highest rate since September.

Clearly, our economy's positive momentum is a direct result of the pro-growth agenda of our President and our Republican-led Congress.

We are the party that is holding the line on fiscal responsibility and showing our commitment to continuing economic growth. We are the party that is working to improve the lives of the American people by lowering taxes, enacting legal reform, and decreasing government interference in the lives of entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Democrats, on the other hand, continue to promote their tax-and-spend policies, because they think they know how to spend your hard-earned money better than you do. My Republican colleagues and I know better than that.

JUXTAPOSITION OF TWO NEWS STORIES

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of the House to the juxtaposition of two news stories: one that says, relating to 9/11, Federal officials were repeatedly warned in the months before the September 11, 2001, terror attacks that Osama bin Laden

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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